

The Glasgow Advertiser Dict.

*Presented to*

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1857

Rev. Samuel May

21, Cornhill

Boston - U.S.

Recd Nov. 6 / 57,  
and " 10. "

~~I think Gay's  
parcel and the  
Engraving went  
by the "Howard" &  
arrived at sea.~~



MS. B. 1. 6 v. 6, p. 64



Boston, 21 Cornhill, Nov. 10. '57.  
Tuesday.

Dear friend Webb-

I give the Boston heading, as the one where I should be addressed, tho' I am at this present writing at my house in Leicester. - I received yours in Boston last Sat. a.m., proposing my undertaking, for the forthcoming Glasgow publication, a series of biographical sketches of American Abolitionists, and giving me an extract of Mrs. Nichol's letter to you on the subject. It seems that the Editor of the North Am. Review has had the whole Department of American biography given into his charge, and of course before giving any definite answer to the proposition made to me, I should prefer that a full understanding on the subject should be had between the publisher & the said Editor. By the way, the present Ed. of the N. A. Review is not Francis Bowen, but the Rev. Andrew P. Peabody, a much better & more liberal-minded man, - but yet one to whom the writing of the biographies of the American Abolitionists would not be a labour of love, & by whom it could not be done without a certain soreness and prejudice. On behalf of them all I should most respectfully protest against committing their lives into the hands of even Mr. Peabody. But if Mr. Bowen has been written to, on the supposition that he still edits the Review, the case is ten times worse. Bowen is notorious here, even among the liberal and conservative, for his <sup>extreme</sup> anti-liberal



As I cannot see proof-sheets, I hope the proof-reader will be exact.

notions and tendencies. His ideas of society and government are extremely bigoted, and hostile to popular liberty, and his sympathies seem strongest with the strongest and most autocratic governments. It would be, I think, unfortunate for the work, to have Mr. Bowen so any considerable part in it. Mr. Peabody, Rev. George Ripley, Richard Hildreth Esq (the last time associate editors, with Horace Greeley & others, of the New York Tribune) and many others who might be named, would be far more suitable men for the undertaking. I do not ask my judgment to be relied on in this, commend you to any well-informed & candid person respecting American literature & literary men.

The way being clear for me to do so, I think I should engage to furnish the biographies (of American abolitionists) which Mr. Mackenzie might require. And, in obedience to Mr. Chappas Nichol's request, I have made haste to prepare the accompanying biog. sketch of Mrs. M. W. Chapman. I fortunately had a good opportunity, last Saturday, to obtain the needed dates, together with some important suggestions from one of the family, and it may be fully relied upon, such as it is.

Mr. Nichol made no suggestion as to the length of the notices, <sup>except generally, speaking of the necessity of compression.</sup> This <sup>one</sup> may be too long. I should need instruction on that point. Among the names you gave me, Garrison, Phillips, Gerrit Smith, J. R. Giddings, Mr. Child, Whittier, Th. Parker, J. T. Hopper, would need (I think) as much space as I have taken for Mr. C. Others would be shorter. But if I knew just the space the publisher could allow me in all, I could divide it amongst the different names. Whatever came, in the way of compensation, I should give to the American Anti-Slavery Society, Yrs truly, S. May Jr